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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – June 2015

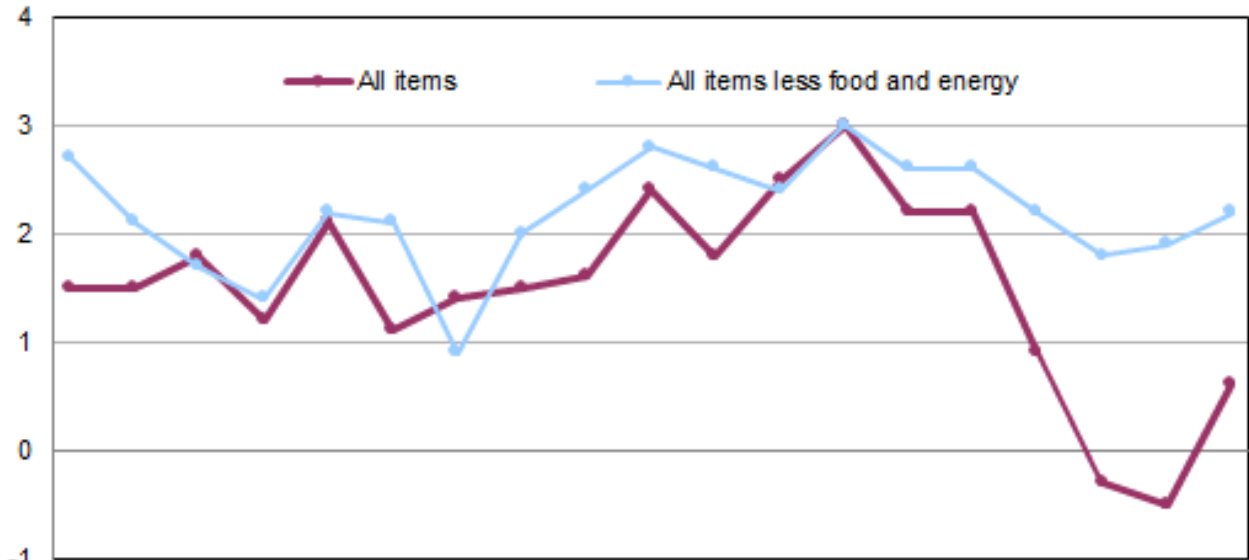
Area prices up 2.5 percent over the two months and 0.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta was up 2.5 percent over the May-June pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index was up 22.7 percent over the two months. The all items less food and energy index increased 0.7 percent and the food index inched up 0.1 percent during the May-June pricing period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 0.6 percent. Annual increases were registered in a number of categories, notably shelter, medical care, and other goods and services. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.2 percent over the year. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, June 2012–June 2015

Percent change



Jun'12 Sep'12 Dec'12 Mar'13 Jun'13 Sep'13 Dec'13 Mar'14 Jun'14 Sep'14 Dec'14 Mar'15 Jun'15

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent during the May-June pricing period. Prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent and food at home prices were unchanged over the two months.

Over the year, the food index rose 3.1 percent, reflecting price increases for both food away from home (5.5 percent) and food at home (1.5 percent).

Energy

The energy index rose 22.7 percent over the two-month pricing period, reflecting a seasonal price increase for electricity (32.2 percent). Prices also advanced over the month for motor fuel (22.0 percent) and utility (piped) gas service (1.2 percent).

Over the year, the energy index declined 12.2 percent. Within the energy group, prices for motor fuel decreased 21.3 percent and utility (piped) gas service prices declined 11.0 percent. Since June 2014, prices for electricity rose 1.6 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent during the May-June pricing period, reflecting higher prices for shelter (0.9 percent).

From June 2014 to June 2015, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.2 percent, reflecting higher prices for shelter (4.0 percent), medical care (3.9 percent), and other goods and services (6.3 percent).

Table A. Atlanta metropolitan area CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February.....	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3
April.....	0.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	-0.5
June.....	0.3	0.6	0.9	3.1	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6
August.....	-0.1	0.6	0.6	3.8	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-	-
October.....	-0.8	0.9	-1.5	3.1	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-	-
December.....	-0.2	1.0	-0.3	3.0	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9	-	-

The Consumer Price Index for July 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total

population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periodsAtlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	219.567	-	225.152	0.6	2.5	-
All items (1967=100).....	662.148	-	678.989	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	250.800	-	250.635	2.8	-0.1	-
Food.....	261.919	-	262.054	3.1	0.1	-
Food at home.....	252.732	253.841	252.692	1.5	0.0	-0.5
Food away from home.....	277.454	-	277.890	5.5	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	151.564	-	148.775	-1.2	-1.8	-
Housing.....	214.410	-	220.778	2.6	3.0	-
Shelter.....	230.673	231.729	232.726	4.0	0.9	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	232.801	233.323	234.220	4.9	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	225.562	226.820	228.015	3.9	1.1	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	225.562	226.820	228.015	3.9	1.1	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	274.405	-	321.766	-1.1	17.3	-
Household energy.....	233.110	239.829	287.579	-1.7	23.4	19.9
Energy Services ⁽¹⁾	231.906	238.590	286.942	-1.5	23.7	20.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	206.921	215.312	273.452	1.6	32.2	27.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	248.339	247.716	251.390	-11.0	1.2	1.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	126.944	-	126.237	-1.6	-0.6	-
Apparel.....	130.852	-	134.595	1.5	2.9	-
Transportation.....	189.269	-	200.453	-8.3	5.9	-
Private transportation.....	188.804	-	200.414	-8.2	6.1	-
Motor fuel.....	206.699	234.871	252.170	-21.3	22.0	7.4
Gasoline (all types).....	205.178	233.302	250.588	-21.3	22.1	7.4
Unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	202.008	230.130	247.450	-21.5	22.5	7.5
Unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	249.464	282.224	302.726	-21.0	21.4	7.3
Unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	213.820	239.413	254.737	-19.9	19.1	6.4
Medical Care.....	408.742	-	410.556	3.9	0.4	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	87.205	-	87.296	0.8	0.1	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	132.900	-	132.906	-0.5	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	341.126	-	362.413	6.3	6.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	219.567	-	225.152	0.6	2.5	-
Commodities.....	176.408	-	181.628	-2.9	3.0	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.792	-	149.674	-6.0	4.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	172.469	-	187.500	-8.4	8.7	-
Durables.....	112.053	-	111.483	-2.2	-0.5	-
Services.....	261.213	-	267.278	2.6	2.3	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	209.402	-	215.079	0.3	2.7	-
All items less shelter.....	219.507	-	227.014	-1.1	3.4	-
Commodities less food.....	142.776	-	149.308	-5.9	4.6	-
Nondurables.....	206.837	-	215.496	-3.2	4.2	-
Nondurables less food.....	169.762	-	183.447	-8.1	8.1	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	311.955	-	323.894	1.0	3.8	-
Services less medical care services.....	245.242	-	251.453	2.6	2.5	-
Energy.....	199.703	215.874	245.040	-12.2	22.7	13.5

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periodsAtlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
All items less energy.....	221.435	-	222.758	2.3	0.6	-
All items less food and energy.....	215.577	-	217.050	2.2	0.7	-

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.